· AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 1.00 EURO · ICELAND KR100 · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · SWEDEN KR10 · UK £.50 · U.S. $1.00

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 31 AUGUST 21, 2006

INSIDE

More miners injured on job in northern Appalachia

—PAGE 4

Tel Aviv expands war throughout Lebanon

1,000 dead; 3,000 wounded; 1 million displaced

AFP/Getty Images/Ahmad Shalha

Red Cross employees and other Lebanese remove the bodies of some 30 farm workers of Syrian origin who died August 4 in an Israeli bombing raid. It reduced to rubble a warehouse at a farm near Qaa, northern Lebanon, in the Bekaa Valley close to Syria.

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

August 9—The Israeli invasion of Lebanon is reaching into every region of the country. In the fourth week of the assault Israeli air attacks destroyed key bridges and highways in a predominantly Christian section of Beirut and killed more than two dozen Syrian migrant farm workers in the northeast of the country. Tel Aviv's invasion force in the south has grown to 10,000, but their advance has been slowed by continuing resistance in the border towns.

Today the Israeli security cabinet approved a broad expansion of the ground

Continued on page 3

Nat'l conference in Chicago to discuss actions for legalization of immigrants

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

CHICAGO, August 8—In a number of cities across the United States, workers, including trade unionists, and others who are part of the movement to demand legalization for the 12 million undocumented immigrants in the country are building the National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention, which will take place here August 11–13.

"The convention will be an open forum to develop strategies and coordinate action to help advance immigrant rights," Moisés Zavala, an organizer of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 881 and a leader of the March 10 Movement, told the *Militant.*

The March 10 Movement, which is hosting the conference, is the coalition that organized the massive marches for immigrant rights here on March 10 and May 1.

One proposal that will be discussed at the convention will be the call for coordinated demonstrations around the country on the Labor Day weekend at the beginning of September. Actions are already planned in several cities including Los Angeles, Washington,

Continued on page 6

Coal bosses, gov't in Kentucky use drug testing to blame miners for lack of job safety

BY SAM MANUEL

PIKEVILLE, Kentucky, August 4—Seven miners in Kentucky have had their certification suspended under a new state law that permits random drug testing of miners. The law is part of a "mine safety package" promoted by Gov. Ernest Fletcher, a Republican. The state legislature passed it unanimously in March, with backing from Democrats and Republicans, and the measure went into effect on July 12.

Meanwhile, miners and other workers have been expressing outrage as more coal miners have been dying on the job across this region, with many pointing out that it is the bosses' profit drive that's killing workers.

On July 30 Jermey Heckler, a welder at a West Virginia coal preparation facility, became the 37th coal miner in the United States to die on the job this year, compared to 22 in all of 2005.

Earlier in July two other miners died on the job in eastern Kentucky, bringing the toll in the state to 13—already five more than in all of 2005, according to the state Office of Mine Safety.

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Cecil Roberts is

Continued on page 4

Socialist Workers Party candidates:
Israeli forces out of Lebanon! U.S. troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan!

SWP supporters complete ballot drive in Iowa

BY MARY MARTIN

DES MOINES, Iowa —"The Israeli government should stop its assault on Lebanon and get all its troops out now," said Diana Newberry, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Iowa, as she campaigned here in early August.

Newberry urged working people to protest Washington's support to Tel Aviv's aggression and to demand the release of all Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners. She also called for immediate withdrawal of U.S. and all other "coalition" troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Militant/Osborne Hart

Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Iowa secretary of agriculture, campaigns in Des Moines August 5 to get SWP ticket on ballot.

"Sure, I'll support socialist candidates being on the ballot. You are the only people saying these things. I am completely opposed to the wars in Lebanon and in Iraq," said Esteban Monreal, 18, a student at Scott Community College from Davenport, Iowa, who signed a petition to put the SWP candidates on the ballot.

In addition to Newberry, the Socialist Workers Party in Iowa is running Kevin Dwire for lieutenant governor, Helen Meyers for U.S. Congress in the 3rd District, and Frank Forrestal for secretary of agriculture. Meyers, who works in the meatpacking

Continued on page 7

UN council to Iran: end production of fuel for nuclear plants by Aug. 31

Pushed by U.S. gov't, Security Council threatens sanctions

BY PAUL PEDERSON

On July 31 the United Nations Security Council voted 14–1 to approve a resolution sponsored by London, Paris, and Berlin to give the government of Iran one month to "suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities," which are part of the country's nuclear energy industry, or "face the possibility of economic and diplomatic sanctions."

All five permanent council members—the governments of the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Russia, and China—who have veto power, backed the resolution. Only the government of Qatar, which is serving a rotating post on the council, voted against.

Washington and its imperialist allies in Europe have been at the center of a campaign to pressure Iran to forfeit its right to produce enriched uranium—an essential component both of fuel for atomic energy and in the production of nuclear weapons—and depend on imported uranium. The right to produce nuclear fuel for atomic energy is codified in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to which Iran is a signer.

Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger wrote in a July 31 column in the *Washington Post* that this step "should be the elaboration of a global system of nuclear enrichment to take place in designated centers around the world under international control—as proposed for Iran by Russia." Kissinger said this will "establish a pattern for the development of nuclear energy without a crisis with each entrant into the nuclear field."

Kissinger's proposal would mean control of the production of nuclear fuel and of its distribution by a small number of states, largely the imperialist powers, most of which possess not only a nuclear energy industry but

Continued on page 3

Also Inside:

Construction workers in Australia fight union-busting by gov't 2

Tens of thousands protest Israeli war against Lebanon 3

How abortion clinics were successfully defended in '90s 5

Protesters in Boston area demand justice for Quincy 4 9

Construction workers in Australia fight union-busting attack by gov't

BY ALASDAIR MACDONALD

SYDNEY, Australia—Some 107 construction workers on the Perth to Mandurah railway project in Western Australia were served July 6 with writs to appear in federal court. They face fines of up to A$28,600 (A$1=US 76 cents) for taking strike action in February, and are campaigning nationally against the charges through their union, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU).

The Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) is seeking fines of A$22,000 against each worker for contravening the Building and Construction Industry Improvement (BCII) Act. Eighty-two workers face additional A$6,600 fines each for defying an order by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to go back to work.

The writs are the first to be served against individual workers under the BCII Act, which was passed into law in September 2005. With the aim of driving the union out of the construction industry, the act has made it illegal for workers to take industrial action without the agreement of the employer. The act also established the ABCC, with draconian powers to interrogate construction workers.

A July 7 article in *The Australian* reported that the ABCC was also preparing prosecutions against other workers in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and Tasmania.

The Perth construction workers walked off the job on February 24 over the sacking of their shop steward, Peter Ballard. In an interview with the *Militant,* Mal Peters, the site safety officer elected to replace Ballard as shop steward, described how Ballard had been fired while on sick leave. He added that since then he too is being targeted by the bosses for possible firing.

"I don't know about other working class people but we just don't have $28,000," Peters told a meeting of 100 people at the University of New South Wales. In the audience were around 70 workers from a construction site on the campus.

Peters described how the A$1.5 billion rail project had fallen behind schedule and that the company pushed workers to work through the night and refused to pay the bonuses stipulated in their contract.

Peters also spoke at a July 24 solidarity meeting that drew 150 people. It was held at the Sydney headquarters of Unions New South Wales, the labor council here, and chaired by CFMEU New South Wales president Peter McClelland.

The meeting was addressed by several other speakers including Andreia Viegas, the widow of a construction worker electrocuted on a work site north of Sydney. Viegas said, "The company put profit first and took a chance that a life could be lost." She called on workers to support the right of entry for union officials to ensure safety.

Militant/Bob Aiken

Mal Peters, a site delegate for the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union in Australia, speaks July 24 at the New South Wales Labour Council about a suit threatening fines against construction workers for a February strike.

Andrew Ferguson, New South Wales secretary of the CFMEU, explained that "on average one worker dies every week on a construction site in Australia."

Peters announced that a protest action would be held in Perth on August 29, the first day of the federal court hearings. When asked if any of the workers had any intention of paying the fine, Peters responded, "We'll go to jail if we have to but we won't pay the fines."

Rally in Newark, New Jersey, protests police brutality

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEWARK, New Jersey—On two days notice, 200 people rallied August 1 in front of the building here where 26-year-old Chakhan Nance was killed by Newark police on July 30. Rev. Thomas Ellis, an organizer of the group "Enough is Enough," convened the rally.

Newark police officer Jose Dopazo shot and killed Nance, an African-American, while he was lying face down on the ground during an arrest for alleged drug possession. Police claim Nance reached for a gun. But eyewitnesses told protesters August 1 that Nance was already handcuffed when Dopazo shot him.

Following the rally, angry demonstrators spontaneously marched to the nearby police station, chanting, "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" In addition to demands to suspend Dopazo, protesters denounced the police for ripping up the signs that they had erected at the scene of the killing. The sidewalk has been spray-painted with the slogan "Newark cops kill."

Police and city officials moved quickly to defend Dopazo's actions. "Based on what I know thus far in the investigation, I believe this officer made the correct decision," Newark police chief Anthony Campos said in a statement.

After being inaugurated on July 1 as the city's new mayor, Cory Booker announced a 100-day plan for Newark's reorganization that includes deploying more cops and providing more equipment to the police. "On the face of it, I understand why the chief is saying this is a justifiable shooting," Booker told the press. He also tried to rationalize the killing by pointing to Nance's background. He was "a young man who had been arrested numerous times before…who was involved in illegal narcotics trade." Booker defended the tearing down of signs by the cops that residents put up, claiming they were "inciting people."

Groups taking part in the August 1 rally included the People's Organization for Progress, a local group involved in fighting police brutality, the New Black Panther Party, and the Socialist Workers Party.

Militant/Sara Lobman

August 1 rally in Newark, New Jersey, to protest killing by cop of Chakhan Nance.

A statement issued by Angela Lariscy and Brian Williams, SWP candidates for U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress in the 13th District, respectively, said: "The killing of Nance is an example of cops on the street acting as judge, jury, and executioner. Police brutality and racist discrimination are a fact of life throughout the United States and are inherent in the system of capitalism, based on the exploitation of working people for the benefit of a wealthy few." The socialist candidates called for more protests to oppose police brutality and to demand "jail for the killer cops."

THE MILITANT

No miner has to die! Unionize the mines!

The rising toll of U.S. coal miners killed on the job this year highlights the need to organize a local of the United Mine Workers of America at every single mine. The 'Militant' brings you regular news of the fight for safety from the coalfields and beyond. Don't miss a single issue!

UMWA safety official and relatives of miners killed in Kentucky mine disaster protest exclusion of family members from hearing June 2.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

❑ $5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

❑ $10 for 12 weeks

❑ $20 for 6 months

❑ $35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can$6 • Caribbean and Latin America, $10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

VOL. 70/NO. 31

Closing news date: August 9, 2005

Editor and circulation director: Argiris Malapanis

Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel

Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins, Martín Koppel, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: **United States**: for one-year subscription send $35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send $65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send $80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send $65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian $45 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Israeli assault on Lebanon

Continued from front page

war to the Litani River, about 18 miles deep into Lebanon. In the days leading up to the decision, Israeli forces dropped leaflets on the south Lebanese city of Tyre, saying, "Every vehicle, whatever its nature, which travels south of the Litani will be bombed on suspicion of transporting rockets and arms."

Nine of the 12 Israeli cabinet members voted in favor of the stepped-up ground campaign. "We must act aggressively and not abandon aerial activities," said Industry and Trade Minister Eli Yishai, one of three ministers who abstained. Referring to weapons the Lebanese group Hezbollah has fired back at Israel, he said, "Whole villages should be removed from the air when we have verified that Katyusha rockets are being fired from there."

"They have struck every major bridge in Lebanon, cutting the country into pieces," Lebanese public works and transport minister Mohammad Safadi told the Beirut *Daily Star* August 5.

The Israeli assault has killed about 1,000 people, wounded 3,000, and turned nearly a million into refugees, Lebanese officials say.

It has also sparked growing protests around the world. More than 100,000 marched against the invasion in Baghdad, Iraq, August 4. Over the next days tens of thousands more marched in other cities (see photo story on this page).

In spite of the massive destruction it has caused, however, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) has been unable to carry out its goal of "degrading" the fighting capacity of the Hezbollah militia. Israeli troops are now engaged in a battle for control of some 20 villages in the south, the Associated Press reported August 4, but continue to meet fierce resistance. Hezbollah has also increased its rocket fire into Israel from about 100 per day to about 200 on some days.

On August 6 a Hezbollah rocket struck a village in northern Israel, killing 12 army reservists preparing to join the invasion. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported August 8 that 65 Israeli soldiers and 39 civilians have been killed since July 12 in the war.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and French governments are bringing before the United Nations Security Council a resolution calling for "the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations." It allows for the continued presence of Israeli forces in Lebanon prior to the stationing of an "international force" in the south.

The Lebanese cabinet on August 7 rejected the UN resolution. It voted unanimously to send 15,000 troops to the border area and that Israeli forces should withdraw from southern Lebanon. The commander of Israel's northern military, Gen. Alon Friedman, said that "regardless of any cease-fire" the IDF will continue "operations to clean up southern Lebanon and to meet the goals we have set ourselves."

Tel Aviv targets all of Lebanon

The Israeli government began its air assault July 12 following Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers. In exchange for their release, Hezbollah has demanded freedom for some of the thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese held prisoner by Tel Aviv.

"From the start, Israel's deployment of its armed forces has been problematic," argued Ze'ev Schiff, military analyst for the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz*, in an August 5 column. He bemoaned "the gravity of the error Israel made in not immediately launching, alongside the aerial attacks, an extensive, multipronged ground campaign…in southern Lebanon."

The Israeli air force struck the predominantly Maronite Christian suburbs north of Beirut August 4, destroying several bridges and disrupting transport with the port city of Tripoli. "Today's destruction has given us a severe problem and it cuts off our only lifeline for humanitarian relief," Robin Lodge of the World Food Program told the *Washington Post.*

When the IDF invaded in 1982 it depended heavily for intelligence and military support on an alliance with a rightist faction based in the privileged Maronite Christian minority. Today, popular sentiment across Lebanese society is against the Israeli assault. The Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir has condemned the invasion.

Israeli warplanes hit a farm August 4 in the Bekaa Valley near Syria, killing 33 farm workers, mostly Syrian Kurds, who were reportedly loading fruit onto trucks, local officials told Reuters.

The ground invasion has so far centered on attacks on towns in a relatively narrow strip some three miles deep into Lebanon. "More than three weeks into

Continued on page 7

Tens of thousands in London protest Israeli war on Lebanon

Demonstrations take place around the world

Militant/Björn Tirsén

LONDON—Tens of thousands marched August 5 from Hyde Park to Parliament Square (pictured above) against the Israeli assault on Lebanon. The march was called by Stop the War Coalition, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, British Muslim Initiative, and others. The main slogans of the rally were "Unconditional cease-fire now"; "Stop Israel's attacks on Lebanon and Gaza"; and "End Blair's support for Bush's wars." Organizers said more than 100,000 participated. Police estimated 20,000.

According to press reports, a similar protest drew thousands in Cape Town, South Africa, and an estimated 2,000 in Cairo, Egypt. The next day, 15,000 marched in Montreal and 1,000 in Stockholm, Sweden. There have been daily protests in majority Arab countries, including in Jordan.

—BJÖRN TIRSÉN

UN council sets Aug. 31 deadline for Iran

Continued from front page

nuclear weapons too.

"No one in today's world can accept the convoluted logic that it is okay for some to have nuclear weapons, while others are prevented from developing nuclear energy," Iran's UN representative, Javad Zarif, said at the July 31 Security Council meeting. He listed a string of examples of how the Security Council was being used as a tool by the imperialist powers against Iran and other semicolonial countries.

"The Iranian people's struggle to nationalize their oil industry was touted, in a draft resolution submitted on 12 October 1951, by the United Kingdom and supported by the United States and France, as a threat to international peace and security," Zarif said. "That draft resolution preceded a coup d'etat, organized by the U.S and the UK…. The people of Iran did, nevertheless, succeed in nationalizing the oil industry, thus pioneering a courageous movement in the developing world to demand their inalienable right to exercise sovereignty over their natural resources."

Zarif was referring to the 1953 CIA-sponsored coup that toppled the government of Iran's prime minister, Mohammad Mosaddeq, who two years earlier had overseen the nationalization of the Anglo-Iranian oil company, the British monopoly that controlled all of Iran's oil wealth. The U.S.-imposed regime, which ruled Iran for the next 26 years, was unable to reverse the nationalization, which was immensely popular.

"In the past few years, a few big powers have spared no effort in turning the Security Council, or the threat of resorting to it, into a tool for attempting to prevent Iran from exercising its inalienable right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes," Zarif said.

Zarif noted that the UN Security Council has said nothing while the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel have issued threats to use military force against Iran.

He added that Iran's nuclear installations have faced "the most robust inspection of any IAEA [the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency] member state." He said this included "more than 2,000 inspector-days of scrutiny in the past three years" along with "over 53 instances of complementary access to different sites across the country" and "repeated access to military sites."

After all of that, Zarif pointed out, the IAEA has stated repeatedly that it has found no evidence of a nuclear weapons program.

The Iranian government insists it is developing a nuclear industry to meet the country's growing energy needs in order to end dependency on oil, the supplies of which are diminishing worldwide.

"All Iranian power plants are now generating electricity from fossil fuel such as gas, gasoline, and mazut [heavy fuel oil] but they cannot meet the country's future demands," Iran's energy minister, Parviz Fattah, told the media in April, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency. "We are duty-bound to generate electricity and for this reason we have to meet our demands by making use of nuclear energy."

Iran's population has doubled since the revolution in 1979, when working people toppled the U.S.-backed regime of the shah. But the country's oil production is now 70 percent of the 1979 level. Two-thirds of the residents of the 30,000 smallest rural villages in Iran's countryside do not have access to electricity today.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Cuban Revolution Shows the Way: Lessons for Working People in the United States. Speaker: Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 18. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. *4229 S. Central Ave. (between Vernon and MLK) Tel.: (323) 233-9372.*

IOWA

Des Moines

The Buffalo Creek Flood: An Act of Man. Video and speakers on 1972 collapse of coal waste dam in West Virginia killing 125 people. Fri., Aug. 18. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. *3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Why Washington's Hostility against Cuba Does Not Cease. Speakers: Martín Koppel, SWP candidate for New York State Attorney General, others. Fri., Aug. 18. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: $5 dinner; $5 program. *307 W. 36th St. 10th floor (near 8th Ave; use north elevators) Tel.: (212) 629-6649.*

TEXAS

Houston

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution. Speaker: Jacquie Henderson. Fri., Aug. 18. 7:30 p.m. Donation: $5. *4800 W. 34th St Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 869-6550.*

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The Lessons of the Spanish Revolution—70th Anniversary of the Start of the Spanish Civil War. Fri., Aug. 18, 7:00 p.m. Donation: $3. *7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (upstairs, above laundromat). Tel.: (09) 276-8885.*

C hristchurch

From Cuba and Venezuela to Union Struggles in New Zealand. Speakers: Felicity Coggan, Patrick Brown, Annalucia Vermunt. Sat., Aug. 19. Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; program, 7:00 p.m. Donation: $7 for dinner and program. *287 Selwyn St, Spreydon. Tel.: (03) 930-3373.*

Kentucky drug-testing law

Continued from front page
scheduled to speak in Harlan, Kentucky, on August 19 at a memorial for miners killed in Harlan County.

Drug and alcohol testing

The seven miners whose licenses were recently suspended for alleged drug-test failures have 30 days to appeal or can reapply for certification if they pass a drug test within 30 days prior to reapplication.

While many miners the *Militant* interviewed said they supported drug testing, most opposed taking away a miner's certification to work. "It's not fair to take a miner's papers away," said Jack Colbert, a roof bolter at the Consol mine in Letcher County. "If a fella gets in a program and cleans himself up he should be allowed to work again."

"This is very difficult work," said James Hollan, a mine electrician. "You are deep down in a hole for long hours. I can see how it could drive somebody to drink or worse."

Jeffery Nelson, a mechanic at the Elkhorn Mine, said he supports the random drug testing. "They need to get them out," he said. "They are a danger to themselves and other miners."

The new drug- and alcohol-testing law requires applicants for mining certification, including mine emergency medical personnel, to "demonstrate that they are drug and alcohol free," according to a summary posted on the state's web site.

It includes the use of breathalyzer tests. A reading at a level of .04 or greater results in denial or suspension of certification.

The law also authorizes the Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing to conduct post-accident drug and alcohol testing, including of people working in the immediate area of the accident and "those that reasonably may have contributed to the accident."

Bosses' profit drive causes deaths

Jermey Heckler, 30, was killed when a pressurized tire blew up while he was welding a grinding on the tire rim, according to press reports. Heckler worked for Circle M Enterprises, a contractor that operates a truck garage for the Star Bridge Preparation Plant in Mill Creek, West Virginia.

During a recent inspection, the Mine Safety and Health Agency (MSHA) cited the contractor for four safety violations, including one for performing maintenance on raised equipment that had not been securely locked out, reported the *Charleston Gazette*.

Many miners and other workers interviewed said it is the bosses' profit drive, including speedup and cutting corners on safety, which is resulting in more injuries and deaths on the job.

John May was killed July 20 when a grader he was operating ran over him at Central Appalachian Mining's Slate Branch Mine in Freeburn, Kentucky. Authorities investigating the accident have given conflicting initial reports, according to the *Lexington Herald-Leader*. A state police report said May was behind the grader. A state mine safety agency report said he was alongside it. And a federal mine safety agency report said he was attempting to remount the machine.

"The bosses were always pushing us to work extra hours at the end of our scheduled shift. We will never know what really caused John May's death," said Tommy Daniels, a friend of May who worked for 13 years at a nearby Massey coal mine as a grade operator.

'I just blame the boss'

Connie Short said the company was responsible for the death of her son, Jason Mosley. "I just blame the boss," she told the *Militant* August 4 in Hindman, Kentucky.

Mosley, a drill operator at the Hendrickson Equipment's Smith Branch No. 1 surface mine, was killed July 18 when material fell from a highwall and crushed the covered cab of his drilling machine, the *Herald-Leader* reported.

The mine has been open since October 2005. According to AP, MSHA has cited the mine 10 times, most recently in June for equipment violations and for allowing loose, hazardous material to accumulate on top of pits and highwalls.

These deaths have come on top of the May 20 disaster at the Darby Mine No. 1 in Holmes Mill, Harlan County, where five miners died after a blast underground. All the mines in that county, and virtually all in eastern Kentucky, are nonunion.

UMWA president Roberts will be a featured speaker at a memorial for miners killed in Harlan County in the last year. Family members of the five miners killed May 20 are organizing the event, which will be held at 4:00 p.m., August 19, at the Harlan Center in Harlan. Speakers will include elected officials and relatives of the fallen miners.

Dan Fein from New York contributed to this article.

MEMORIAL FOR MINERS

A memorial service for the nine Harlan County miners who have died in accidents in the past year will be held August 19 at the Harlan Center in Harlan, Kentucky. U.S. representatives Ben Chandler and George Miller are slated to speak, along with Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America. The open ceremony will begin at 4:00 p.m.

Kentucky, W. Virginia miners snap up 'Militant'

Militant/Dan Fein

Sam Manuel from Washington sells *Militant* August 3 outside Hobet mine near Danville, West Virginia. Nearly 250 people, many of them working miners, bought copies of the paper and 15 subscribed in a three-day visit to the region.

PIKEVILLE, Kentucky—The *Militant*'s coverage and editorial support for workers' struggles to unionize the mines as the answer to preventing more deaths of coal and other miners on the job is getting a wider hearing in eastern Kentucky and in West Virginia.

Three *Militant* supporters—this reporter included—visited the region August 3–5, where the most recent deaths of coal miners have taken place. We sold 246 copies of the paper and 15 subscriptions.

Some 15 miners, loggers, and other workers bought the paper August 3 at an intersection leading to the Hobet mine in West Virginia, which is organized by the United Mine Workers of America.

That afternoon, 50 miners bought copies and one subscribed in Freeburn, Kentucky. Cam Mining's Slate Branch Mine is located there. John May died July 20 while working at this mine. Some of May's co-workers were among those who purchased copies of the paper. "I worked in the Old Fork mine in Matewan [West Virginia] for 41 years," said retired miner Jess Dodson who picked up a copy along the road leading to the mine.

One woman told us we were selling at the wrong place after buying a copy at a shopping center in Hindman, Kentucky. Jason Mosley was killed there on July 18 when a highwall collapsed on him at the Hendrickson Equipment's Smith Branch No. 1 surface mine. "You need to go to the Exxon station in Isom to meet miners going to and coming from work," she said. "They stop there to get a sandwich or coffee." She was right! We sold 93 copies and three subscriptions there August 4.

The next day we went to Harlan County, Kentucky, the fourth *Militant* sales team to visit the area after five miners died at the Darby Mine No. 1 there on May 20. Workers in the area bought 69 copies of the *Militant* and eight subscriptions.

"I don't work in a coal mine but I'm in a union," said Mark Brock, who bought a copy outside Don's supermarket in Harlan. Brock is an electrician and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. "Here's a little extra to help with the paper," he said, handing over $5.

—DAN FEIN

Serious injuries increase along with deaths in mines

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PITTSBURGH—Around the same time the 37th coal miner was killed on the job in the United States, a number of miners were injured in a series of accidents in the northern Appalachia region.

Jermey Heckler was killed at Carter Roag's Star Bridge preparation plant in Randolph County, West Virginia, when a tire he was working on exploded July 30 (for more details see article above).

Meanwhile, Consol Energy, the largest underground mining company in the country, reported three serious accidents in northern Appalachia where workers were taken to a hospital, two suffering from burns.

At the company's Blacksville No. 2 Mine, a union operation located on the Pennsylvania/West Virginia border, three miners were injured July 20 in a flash fire caused by a methane explosion when they were welding underground. Ninety miners working at the time were evacuated, according to the Observer-Reporter.

Within two weeks there were two additional serious accidents at the Bailey and Enlow Fork mines, which are located alongside each other in Greene County, Pennsylvania. These mines have been among the top coal-producing facilities in the country for a number of years. Both are nonunion.

On July 25, at Enlow Fork mine, Jerry Layton's arm was severed when a large chain that moves coal on the longwall machine broke. Surgeons worked nine hours to reattach his arm, TV Channel 4 in Pittsburgh reported.

Two miners were injured at the Bailey mine on August 1. William Cox received electrical shocks while working on a battery charger for a scoop, a machine used for moving supplies underground. A company spokesman said that "as a precaution he was lifeflighted to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh." The shock caused a burn on his left hand. The hospital listed him in critical condition. Cox has worked for Bailey for just over one year. His partner, a new miner, was also taken to the hospital after he came to Cox's aid.

A Bailey miner, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution by the boss, told the *Militant* that the production crew was taken out of the active mining section where the accident occurred before inspectors came in. The August 3 *Herald-Standard*, however, reported that "the incident occurred in an isolated part of the mine and did not impact mining operations."

"Workers are disappointed with the unsafe practices the company uses," the Bailey miner said. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) said Bailey's accident rate is around the average for a mine of its type. However, about a third of the injuries affect contractors, workers who are not employed by Consol but by contracting services that pay the miners less.

Jones Fork, a Consol mine in Kentucky, was involved in an incident around faulty mine seals shortly after the May 20 explosion at the Darby Mine No. 1 in Harlan County, Kentucky, where five miners were killed. Miners told the *Militant* there that seals of Omega block that could not withstand the blast caused some of these deaths. MSHA said the Jones Fork E-3 Mine was evacuated and sealed June 1 after an underground seal was breached, according to the Courier-Journal, a daily published in Louisville, Kentucky.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Chile: 2,000 workers strike world's largest copper mine

More than 2,000 workers in Chile struck one of the world's largest copper mines August 7. The Escondida mine–majority owned by BHP Billiton—produces 20 percent of Chile's copper and accounts for 2.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product. The unionists are demanding a 13 percent pay raise and improved benefits. They turned down the company's 3 percent pay raise offer. The walkout has cut production by about two-thirds, the BBC reported. "This is the first real strike in the company's history," Pedro Marín, spokesperson for Escondida's Workers' Union No. 1, told the media. On the first day of the strike workers marched in Antofagasta, a major city in the mining region, located 995 miles north of Santiago.

—Brian Williams

Nurses in New Jersey turn down contract, prepare for strike

Nurses at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey, announced August 3 that they would strike in 10 days if they do not have a new contract. Their three-year pact expired June 30. The nurses, represented by Steelworkers Local 4-200, had overwhelmingly rejected the hospital's "final" offer July 27. One of the main issues is the hospital's demand that nurses and their families have all nonemergency medical and dental procedures performed at the hospital where they work, or pay up to a $1,000 deductible for each procedure. Many of the nurses live some distance from the hospital and face long waiting periods to obtain care, union representatives told the press.

—Brian Williams

New Zealand: pickets demand contract at Auckland casino

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—More than 100 workers from Auckland's SkyCity casino—restaurant and bar staff, housekeepers, cleaners, and workers from the gaming floor—held a noisy picket outside the facility's main entrance July 29 to demand a new union contract. The workers, members of the SkyCity Employees Association-Unite (SEA-Unite) union, began holding walkouts and pickets July 21 after their contract negotiations broke down.

Workers carried signs calling for NZ$12.50 minimum per hour and secure hours of work (NZ$1=US 61 cents). "We have to ask permission to go to the toilet—it's ridiculous," table games inspector and union delegate Candese Sherman told the *Militant*. "It's not about the money, it's about respecting people," she added. The SEA-Unite union organizes around 700 workers at the casino, which employs 2,800 people. Members of the Service and Food Workers Union on the site are also involved in contract negotiations.

—Felicity Coggan

How women's rights backers defended abortion clinics in '90s

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

Since the legal right to abortion was won 33 years ago, supporters of women's rights have been through hard-fought experiences in successfully beating back attempts by rightist forces to limit the right to choose.

One such period unfolded in the early 1990s. Emboldened by years of bipartisan efforts by capitalist politicians to restrict women's access to abortion, Operation Rescue launched a nationwide campaign to physically shut down abortion clinics in several cities across the country. They blockaded clinic doors, violently harassed patients, and assaulted clinic workers, defenders, and doctors.

Because of the broad popular support for a woman's right to choose, thousands of people, especially young women and men, responded to these attacks and mobilized to defend abortion clinics.

Operation Rescue is a rightist cadre organization. It not only attacks a woman's right to abortion but promotes a broader anti-working-class agenda, from opposing "illegal immigration" to supporting "property rights." In carrying out its assaults on abortion clinics, the group often acted with help or complicity from the police and capitalist politicians.

On July 15, 1991, Operation Rescue launched its "Summer of Mercy," targeting three abortion clinics in Wichita, Kansas. They brought in thousands of ultraright cadres and supporters from around the country and began to blockade the clinics to terrorize women using the facilities and to shut them down.

During the six-week-long siege, however, the main women's rights organizations, including the National Organization for Women and NARAL, resisted calls for mobilizing large numbers of people to defend the clinics. Instead, they argued for relying on the courts and police to "do their job."

As a result, Operation Rescue conducted assaults on the clinics for weeks and closed them for a time. Some 2,650 rightists got arrested. The cops would sometimes take 24 hours to clear the entrance before allowing clinic workers to enter.

Federal judge Patrick Kelly issued an order to keep the clinics open and ordered U.S. marshals to clear the rightist goons. Two days later, however, after assurances by Operation Rescue, the judge and city officials pulled the cops and marshals off the clinic entrances. Kansas governor Joan Finney addressed an August 3 rally of rightists, commending their efforts.

On August 20, some 200 rightists stormed the Women's Health Care Services clinic, which was supposedly guarded by cops and U.S. marshals.

Some 5,000 pro-choice supporters rallied August 24. The following day, Operation Rescue held a rally of 25,000 featuring right-wing figures such as Pat Robertson and Joseph Scheidler, as well as a Black pastor. The next day they organized a "pro-life" farmers' tractorcade.

Wichita was a serious setback for supporters of women's rights. It emboldened Operation Rescue to launch attacks on abortion clinics in other cities.

Many defenders of the right to choose drew lessons from this defeat. They mobilized when Operation Rescue launched its "Spring of Life" drive in April 1992 against four abortion clinics in Buffalo, New York. Pro-choice forces from around the country converged on Buffalo, mobilizing large numbers to meet the rightists. Mass pro-choice rallies were held to win public support.

Every morning at 5:00 a.m., hundreds of volunteers, overwhelmingly young women and men, reported for clinic defense. Teams were dispatched to different clinics across Buffalo. They were trained in methods to withstand charges by the rightists and exercise discipline to avoid unnecessary confrontations with Operation Rescue or the police.

Some 1,500 joined the pro-choice lines, outnumbering the 500 Operation Rescue forces, which failed to break through the defense guards. This time the clinics stayed open. It was a resounding victory and a blow to the rightists.

Supporters of women's rights defend entrance to abortion facility in Buffalo, New York, in April 1992. Pickets beat back drive by rightist Operation Rescue to shut down clinic.

Then, in August of that year, Operation Rescue organized a two-week-long attempt to shut down the 14 abortion clinics in Houston, coinciding with the 1992 Republican National Convention.

Again the rightists were met with a disciplined operation by defenders of a woman's right to choose. Despite vicious attacks by the antiabortion forces, clinic defenders held their lines. They met early each morning to be dispatched around the city. One of the guidelines they enforced to avoid victimization by the cops was to bar drugs and alcohol on the line.

These mass mobilizations in the streets, with careful training and disciplined organization, are important examples of how it was possible to successfully defend a woman's right to choose from rightist thugs and their backers in the government, police, and capitalist parties.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

August 28, 1981

LAS TUNAS—In his annual July 26 speech, marking the twenty-eighth anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks that launched the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro accused the U.S. government of waging biological warfare against Cuba.

Castro was referring to the current epidemic of dengue fever. As of July 24, the virus had afflicted nearly 275,000 Cubans and killed 113, including eighty-one children.

The outbreak began in late May in Havana and quickly spread across the island. The epidemic is a new type of dengue which had never appeared before in Cuba. A large part of the Cuban leader's speech was devoted to the history of U.S. biological and chemical warfare efforts, as documented in reports from the U.S. Senate, and other sources not noted for their identification with the Cuban revolution.

August 27, 1956

NEW YORK, Aug. 20—The presidential slate of the Socialist Workers Party was formally nominated last night at a convention in this city. Chosen by acclamation as the SWP banner bearers in the 1956 elections were Farrell Dobbs for President and Myra Tanner Weiss for Vice-President. They had been recommended as candidates by the SWP National Committee last fall.

Reporting on the draft platform was Farrell Dobbs, SWP National Secretary.

He contrasted this platform's forthright, unequivocal planks for labor, civil rights and peace with the evasive and reactionary platform of the recently held Democratic convention. He excoriated labor bureaucrats, social democrats and Stalinists who are trying to dupe the working class into voting for Stevenson-Kefauver and the Democratic platform.

August 29, 1931

Before the echoes of the big strikes in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky have died out, and while the rumblings of new anti-starvation rebellions are being heard again in the coal fields, miners by the dozens are being dragged into coal operators' courts to be railroaded to the electric chair or to long terms of imprisonment.

In Harlan, Kentucky, the grand jury is still in session and continues to turn out one indictment for murder after another. The thirty-four miners, who are up for trial in connection with killings that occurred last May at Evarts with four fatalities, now have more than a hundred indictments issued against them. A new legal assassination is being planned by the Kentucky barons of coal and their judicial serfs. This time it is to be executed with dispatch and on a mass scale so that there may be less opportunity to arouse a powerful workers protest movement in time.

Immigrant rights leader speaks in N.Y., Boston

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK—"We are asking you to join us in Chicago August 11–13 at a conference to discuss what next" in the fight for the legalization of all immigrants, said Nativo López at a meeting here August 3. "We need to unify forces into a single movement for this struggle."

López is the president of the California-based Mexican American Political Association (MAPA) and executive director of the Hermandad Mexicana Latinoamericana. Both groups helped organize the mass demonstrations on March 25 and May 1 in Los Angeles demanding legalization of all undocumented immigrants. López has been touring several cities to build the Chicago conference and other upcoming immigrant rights activities.

Addressing a public meeting of about 50 people in Washington Heights, an Upper Manhattan neighborhood with a large Dominican-born population, López said, "Our demand must be: Kill both bills, HR 4437 and S2611." He noted that HR 4437, approved by the House of Representatives last December and known as the Sensenbrenner bill, would criminalize 12 million undocumented workers and those assisting them.

"We defeated the Sensenbrenner bill through mobilizations of millions in the streets," López said. "But we were betrayed by Democrats, who made a deal with Republicans to allow S2611, the Hagel-Martínez bill, to pass" in the Senate. He said S2611 provides for the legalization of some, but with many onerous restrictions and police "enforcement" measures. "That 'path to citizenship' is a path to purgatory," with people waiting many years before they can obtain legal status, he said.

"We want unconditional legalization *now*," López stated, adding that defenders of immigrants' rights should also oppose employer sanctions, guest worker programs, deportations, and the militarization of the border.

Pointing to actions such as those on May 1, López noted, "Immigrants are teaching other workers to fight, by mobilizing in their millions as never before. Never before had we seen millions marching across the country like this."

The legalization fight is not only in the interests of the foreign-born, he said. "What's good for immigrants is good for all workers. The immigrant movement is fundamentally a working-class movement." Unions have been and need to be involved in it, the MAPA leader said.

López emphasized that the Chicago conference will "unite as many people as possible, not exclude anyone, in order to discuss a strategy, a plan of action" for the coming months.

Following the New York meetings, López traveled to Boston, where he spoke at a meeting titled "No Human Being is Illegal! Next Steps in the Struggle for Justice and Dignity for All." That event drew 50 people.

Ted` Leonard in Boston contributed to this article.

Militant/Ted Leonard

Nativo López, an organizer of the large, working-class actions this spring demanding legalization for undocumented immigrants, speaks August 5 at a meeting in Boston.

National Immigrant Rights Strategy Convention
Chicago Aug. 11–13
Holiday Inn Hillside
4400 Frontage Rd., Hillside, IL 60162
For information call (877)-7-MARCHA or visit: www.movimiento10demarzo.org

Immigrant rights conference in Chicago

Continued from front page

Chicago, and the Twin Cities.

The conference call lists points of unity for those attending. The first is support for unconditional legalization for all, and opposition to the immigration bill passed last December by the House of Representatives, which would criminalize undocumented workers and those who aid them, as well as to the current version of the bill approved in May by the Senate.

The conference organizers call for expedited family reunification visas, and protection of labor and civil rights for all. They call for an end to deportations, to the use of local police agencies for immigration purposes, and to the building of walls at the U.S.-Mexico border and militarization of the frontier.

Organizations and individuals who have been active in this working-class struggle over the past year are building the gathering across the country.

Leaders of the Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Coalition say they are sending a couple of carloads of people to participate in the Chicago conference. That coalition is organizing for a September 4 action in which supporters of immigrant rights will march to Harriet Island Park, where trade unions in that state are organizing an annual gathering to mark Labor Day.

On a tour through New York and Boston August 2-–5, Nativo López, president of the California-based Mexican American Political Association, used those platforms to build the Chicago conference (see article above).

Joel Magallán, executive director of Asociación Tepeyac in New York, told the *Militant* August 8 that he anticipates representatives of dozens of organizations and coalitions will be present in Chicago. The conference "will help us see things collectively, establish a common strategy, and reaffirm the basic principles with which we started," he said.

Magallán said he has joined the call for supporters of the rights of immigrants to participate in the Labor Day activities organized by trade unions nationwide, and to bring to these actions the fight for legalization for all immigrants who live in this country.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Hillside, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. It will begin with a reception on Friday evening, August 11. Saturday will include sessions focusing on an "Analysis of the Current Situation—And What We Stand For"; "Immigrants and Labor"; and "Combating the Right-Wing Attack on Immigrants." On Sunday, delegates will discuss action proposals and organize for national coordination of future work.

To find out how to attend, call (877) 7-MARCHA or e-mail august11convention@movimiento10demarzo.org.

Róger Calero in New York and Brian Taylor in Minneapolis contributed to this article.

Boston: protesters counter anti-immigrant rally

Militant/Ted Leonard

BOSTON—A dozen members of the Paul Revere Riders, a rightist group allied with the Minutemen, rallied here August 6. They were met with a counterdemonstration by 30 defenders of immigrants' rights. The group is touring the country on motorcycles and holding rallies calling for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and for stopping "illegal immigration."

—TED LEONARD

Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2006

California	Lea Sherman, U.S. Senate James Harris, Governor Chauncey Robinson, Sec'y of State Gerardo Sánchez, U.S. Cong., 8th CD Naomi Craine, U.S. Cong., 34th CD Michael Ortega, U.S. Cong., 35th CD Joel Britton, San Francisco Bd. of Educ.
Florida	Bernie Senter, U.S. Senate Omari Musa, Governor Margaret Trowe, U.S. Cong., 18th CD Eric Simpson, U.S. Cong., 17th CD Ruth Robinett, Fl. State Rep. Dist. 109
Georgia	William Arth, Governor Lisa Potash, Lt. Governor Eleanor García, U.S. Cong., 5th CD
Iowa	Diana Newberry, Governor Kevin Dwire, Lt. Governor Frank Forrestal, Sec'y of Agriculture Helen Meyers, U.S. Cong., 3rd CD*
Massachusetts	John Hawkins, Governor Laura Garza, U.S. Cong., 8th CD
Minnesota	Rebecca Williamson, U.S. Senate Brian Taylor, Governor Nelson Gonzalez, Lt. Governor Tom Fiske, U.S. Cong., 4th CD Julian Santana, U.S. Cong., 5th CD
New Jersey	Angela Lariscy, U.S. Senate* Brian Williams, U.S. Cong., 13th CD*
New York	Róger Calero, U.S. Senate Maura DeLuca, Governor Ben O'Shaughnessy, Lt. Governor Martín Koppel, State Attorney General Willie Cotton, State Comptroller Nancy Boyasko, U.S. Cong., 11th CD
Pennsylvania	Ved Dookhun, U.S. Senate Osborne Hart, Governor Tony Lane, Lt. Governor Cindy Jaquith, U.S. Cong., 14th CD John Staggs, Pa. State Rep. Dist. 198*
Texas	Amanda Ulman, U.S. Senate José Aravena, Governor Anthony Dutrow, U.S. Cong., 18th CD
Washington	David Rosenfeld, U.S. Senate Connie Allen, U.S. Cong., 7th CD
Wash., D.C.	Sam Manuel, Mayor María Sánchez, City Council Chair Seth Dellinger, City Council At-Large Janice Lynn, House Delegate

*Confirmed on ballot

Socialist Workers Party candidates in Massachusetts:

‘Legalize all immigrants now!’

Socialists complete ballot drive, get media coverage

BY BETSY FARLEY

BOSTON, August 7—Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party ticket in Massachusetts have collected 4,313 signatures to place Laura Garza on the ballot for U.S. Congress in the 8th District, well over twice the requirement of 2,000.

At the same time, the SWP election campaign has begun to receive media coverage here. A local radio station and cable television program the Arab Hour recently interviewed Garza.

Siglo 21, a Spanish-language weekly based in Lawrence, Massachusetts, published an article in its August 2–8 issue by Diego Luis Peña Álvarez, headlined “SWP nominates candidates for governor and Congress.”

“The Socialist Workers Party nominated two workers as its candidates for governor of Massachusetts and for Congress,” the article began.

Siglo 21

John Hawkins and Laura Garza, SWP candidates for governor of Massachusetts and U.S. Congress in the Boston-area 8th District, respectively, as they appeared in the August 2–8 issue of *Siglo 21*.

“The aspiring governor, John Hawkins, is a worker at a meat cutting and distributing plant and has been an arduous fighter for Black rights. He was the promoter of the march on Washington demanding no U.S. intervention in the internal politics of Cuba and Venezuela,” it said.

“Laura Garza...herself is a veteran union fighter and a firm defender of immigrant rights.”

At a recent meeting “celebrated on Bennington Street in East Boston,” the article said, they both announced their platform, which includes demands for “the immediate withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq and Afghanistan; opposition to economic and military threats against Iran; to cancel the foreign debt of semi-colonial countries; amnesty and permanent residency for all undocumented, and to stop the workplace raids and deportations.”

The SWP candidates also call for “the elimination of federal laws demanding that bosses verify the immigration status of their workers; they demand affordable credits for small farmers; to abolish the death penalty; oppose the cuts in Social Security; and they intend to eliminate all laws restricting civil rights of gays and lesbians,” the article concluded.

Socialist campaign supporters said they plan to file the nominating petitions to place Garza on the ballot at the Massachusetts State House August 17 and will hold a news conference there. Hawkins is running as a write-in candidate.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

The Fight for Legalization of Immigrants and Unions, and Against Imperialist War. Speakers: Róger Calero, John Hawkins, and Laura Garza, SWP candidates for U.S. Senate in New York, Massachusetts governor, and U.S. Congress in Massachusetts’ 8th District, respectively. Sat., Aug. 19. Reception, 3:00 p.m.; Program, 4:00 p.m. *13 Bennington St., 2nd floor, East Boston. Tel: (617) 569-9169.*

CANADA

Toronto

Communist League Campaign Launch: Support the Working-Class Alternative in the Toronto Elections. Speakers: Joseph Young for Mayor; Michel Dugré for City Council Ward 12; Beverly Bernardo for City Council Ward 14. Fri., Aug. 18. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. *2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201. Tel.: (416) 535-9140.*

Iowa SWP candidates: End war on Lebanon

Continued from front page

industry, has already been certified for ballot status.

A good number of people have signed in support of the socialist candidates’ demand for immediate legalization of all immigrants without papers. “I’ll sign and my friends with me will sign too,” said Adrián Pérez, a meat packer who works at Osceola Foods, a nonunion subsidiary of Hormel. His friends nodded in agreement. Pérez said he had joined a large May 1 pro-legalization protest in Kansas City. He said he looked forward to more street protests around Labor Day.

More than two dozen supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign fanned out across the state August 5. They campaigned in Waterloo, Davenport, and Des Moines, and gathered the remaining 1,300 signatures, for a total of 2,500, twice the official requirement to get the socialist candidates on the ballot.

Later in the evening, some 40 people packed into the SWP campaign headquarters in Des Moines to hear the socialist candidates and celebrate the completion of the petition drive.

“We received overwhelming support from working people—for our right to be on the ballot and, in many cases, for our political platform,” said Forrestal. “Among those signing our petitions were workers at the John Deere plant who are working only 32 hours a week, workers at Titan Tire who report working in extreme heat, and dozens of meat packers and other immigrant workers, who were more confident because of the unfolding fight for legalization.”

He added, “We also ran into some opposing views.” One person refused to sign the petition after reading the party’s demands in support of working farmers. “They get too much money,” she said. A few others did not sign because they said they supported the Israeli government’s war in Lebanon.

Dwire said he met a farm family in Waterloo that grows corn and soybeans and raises cattle. They told the socialist campaigners about the serious drought conditions farmers face in several parts of the Midwest. “When the crop is good, the price farmers receive goes down, and when it doesn’t rain enough and the crop is bad, the market price goes up but ‘we don’t have enough to sell to break even,’” Dwire said the farmers explained.

Dwire said that is why the Socialist Workers campaign calls for an end to farm foreclosures, for government-funded affordable credit to working farmers, and for price supports to cover their production costs.

Newberry told the audience that the SWP platform points to the need to organize independently of all the capitalist parties and “to build a movement that can ultimately take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class and establish a workers and farmers government.”

While campaigning, supporters of the SWP ticket have raised nearly $1,000 in contributions from working people.

Tel Aviv expands war throughout Lebanon

Continued from page 3

the fighting,” AP reports, “six Israeli brigades—or roughly 10,000 troops—were locked in battle with hundreds of Hezbollah guerrillas in about 20 towns and villages in south Lebanon.”

Many in the south remain to fight the invasion. “Whatever strength we have…we will put it in place and resist Israel if they try to occupy south Lebanon again,” Ahmad Basbishi, a shopkeeper in the southern town of Sarafan, told *Asia Times*.

“The mood in our area is changing,” Georges Haddad, an attorney in predominantly Christian East Beirut, told the *Militant*. “People are saying we are in solidarity with the resistance but there are many issues that need to be resolved after the Israeli campaign ends…that we need to have input on such vital issues as when to have military operations against a foreign power, that one party cannot have exclusive rights on this.”

The support for Hezbollah across the region has caused unease among bourgeois forces in the Middle East who seek to preserve sectarian divisions. A top Sunni Muslim cleric in Saudi Arabia, Sheik Abdullah bin Jibreen, for example, issued a religious edict August 5 that states, “It is not acceptable to support this rejectionist party [Hezbollah], and one should not fall under its command or pray for its victory.”

Hezbollah was formed in the 1980s and gained support for its leading role in the resistance to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Holding two cabinet positions in the Lebanese government, it is a capitalist party that calls for an “Islamic Republic.” Its name means “Party of God” and it is backed by the Syrian and Iranian governments.

“The Israelis seem to have accomplished certain political goals,” noted Haddad in East Beirut. “These include the concessions made by Hezbollah when in the last cabinet meeting they accepted the deployment of 15,000 Lebanese army troops, something that had been rejected until now. And also their agreement in principle that UN troops be deployed in the south of the country once Israeli troops withdraw.”

At the same time as it has been carrying out its assault on Lebanon, Tel Aviv has not let up on its attacks in the Gaza Strip. The death toll since the IDF began attacks on the Palestinian people there on June 25 has now reached 175, according to UN reports. The Israeli government has imprisoned about 40 members of the Palestinian parliament and cabinet, most of them members of the governing party Hamas. On August 7 Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank arrested Aziz Dweik, the speaker of the Palestinian parliament.

Georges Mehrabian in Athens, Greece, contributed to this article.

SWP candidate on Pennsylvania ballot

Victory in ending use of state ‘loyalty oath’ gets publicity

BY JOHN STUDER

PHILADELPHIA, August 8—The Socialist Workers Party campaign in Pennsylvania was informed today that no challenges had been filed with the Bureau of Commissions, Elections, and Legislation to the nominating petitions submitted by John Staggs, the party’s candidate for State House of Representatives in the 198th District. The deadline for such challenges expired today.

This means that Staggs, who had submitted more than four times the necessary signatures, will appear on the November ballot.

The SWP campaign successfully challenged the state “loyalty oath,” and Staggs filed petitions crossing out the “anti-subversive” pledge.

This victory for political rights is getting publicity. An opinion column by Dimitri Vassilaros in the August 7 *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, one of the main dailies in Pittsburgh, said, “By challenging the Pennsylvania loyalty oath—all political candidates in the commonwealth having to swear they are not subversives—the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) has more respect for the rule of law than does the General Assembly.

“The Pennsylvania Loyalty Act was passed in 1951…. However, in *Communist Party of Indiana v. Whitcomb* (1974), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the oath violated the First and Fourteenth amendments [of the U.S. constitution].

“And when the highest court in the land made its decision, the commonwealth im-

Continued on page 8

What sparked 1877 nationwide labor uprising in U.S.?

Below is an excerpt from The Great Labor Uprising of 1877, *one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month in August. In July 1877, the United States was in the grip of a five-year-long economic depression. Railroad workers in Martinsburg, West Virginia, went on strike against still another wage cut. Within a few days 100,000 workers were on strike in the first nationwide labor upheaval. In St. Louis the strike developed into a complete shutdown of all industry. Federal troops and police were used to suppress the strike, which ended on Aug. 5, 1877. Copyright © 1977 by Philip S. Foner. Reprinted by permission.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY PHILIP S. FONER

"The most extensive and deplorable workingmen's strike which ever took place in this, or indeed in any other country began a week ago Monday among the freight hands of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad at Martinsburg, West Virginia, the location of extensive repair-shops and terminus of one of the regular divisions of the road." So began the story of the Great Strike in the *Nation* of July 26, 1877.

Actually, "the most extensive…strike ever to take place in this or any other country," started at Camden Junction, two miles from Baltimore, a critical point through which all trains leaving Baltimore for Washington or the West passed. But it could have started anywhere along the 2,700-mile length of the B & O….

Depiction from *Harper's Weekly* of assault by the Sixth Maryland Regiment against workers in Baltimore during 1877 labor upheaval in the United States.

During the preceding three years, workers at these various points had suffered reductions of 50 percent of what they had earned before the panic; as a whole, they had sustained cuts averaging 30 percent more than the general average of reductions in railroad wages throughout the country. They were the lowest-paid men on any railroad in the country, except for the workers on the New York Central line….

The *Baltimore Sun* conceded that "the story of their struggles to live is very sad," adding: "Many of them declare they might as well starve without work as starve and work."

The *Sun* had helped to light the fuse that was soon to burst into flame by publishing on July 15 the report of President Garrett on the earnings of the B & O. In it, Garrett took occasion to congratulate the board of directors upon the substantial nature of the business done in the previous twelve months….

Then, as if to rub salt into the workers' wounds, the following day the *Sun* published the news that the 10 percent reduction in wages had been ordered to take effect immediately, and that President Garrett was confident that everyone, both workers and townspeople all along the line, would "cheerfully recognize" that the reduction was a necessity.

Shortly before noon on Monday, July 16—the day the B & O wage cut was to become effective—the fireman on Engine 32 deserted his train at Camden Junction. Other firemen soon joined him. While company agents quickly hired scabs, the strikers remained in the area to persuade other firemen to leave their trains idle. The railroad immediately called for a large police contingent, and Mayor Ferdinand C. Latrobe, who, together with his family, had long been associated with the B & O, promptly responded and also ordered the arrest of the strike leaders at Camden Junction. Three strikers were arrested for "inciting a riot," a charge that even the police acknowledged was ridiculous by deferring their trial. Meanwhile, additional police were stationed along the route from Camden Station to Relay, the city limits.

SWP candidate on Pennsylvania ballot

Continued from page 7

mediately did nothing. Candidates still were required to swear they were not subversives….

"The Pennsylvania Socialist Workers campaign gave notice in July that it intended to challenge the oath. State Attorney General Tom Corbett rightly ordered the Department of State to discontinue using the loyalty oath."

The SWP campaign has received messages of support.

"Congratulations to the Pennsylvania Socialist Workers, and their fine attorneys, successfully petitioning for an end to the use of an unconstitutional loyalty oath in our state," Kathy Black, president of the Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union Women, said in an August 2 message. Attorney Eric Lieberman of the constitutional rights law firm Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky, and Lieberman, based in New York, represented the SWP campaign in challenging the loyalty oath. Noting that the oath was introduced "when people's lives and livelihoods were destroyed by our government because of their political beliefs and associations," Black added, "I am delighted to know this holdover from that shameful time has finally been struck down."

"This is long overdue," wrote Jim Savage, Grievance and Negotiation Chair of United Steelworkers Local 10-1 at the Philadelphia Sunoco refinery.

"This is a victory for the labor movement and all working people," said Staggs. "It means anyone who wants to use the electoral arena to publicize and advance their struggles can do so, without facing a thought-control 'loyalty' test, a barrier to getting on the ballot.

"We are campaigning to advance support for workers' struggles to organize unions and use them to defend themselves and other working people from the bosses' attacks," said Staggs, who is himself involved in a union-organizing drive at the meatpacking plant where he works. "We say not a single miner has to die. There is only one effective tool coal miners can use to ensure safety: a local of the United Mine Workers of America in every single mine."

August BOOKS OF THE MONTH

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

The Great Labor Uprising of 1877

by Philip S. Foner

The first generalized confrontation between labor and capital in the United States. $23.

Special price: $17

Malcolm X on Afro-American History

by Malcolm X

Recounts the hidden history of the labor of people of African origin and their achievements. $11. **Special price: $8**

Out Now!

by Fred Halstead

A participant's account of the fight for a political course to organize working people, GIs, and youth and help lead growing world opposition to the Vietnam War. $33.

Special price: $25

Capitalism's World Disorder

by Jack Barnes

The social devastations, coarsening of politics, and acts of imperialist aggression are not the product of something gone wrong but of the lawful workings of capitalism. $24. **Special price: $18**

Join Pathfinder Readers Club for $10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

OFFER GOOD UNTIL AUGUST 31

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: swp@bham.rr.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net **San Francisco:** 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: 307 Brooks, 160 Infirmary Way. Zip: 01003. Tel: (914) 466-6772. E-mail: AmherstYS@hotmail.com **Boston:** 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@verizon.net

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 695 Gullen Mall Apt. 408. Zip: 48360. Tel: (248) 860-9341. E-mail: ysdetroit@yahoo.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St. E, West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@optonline.net

NEW YORK: Albany: Tel: (518) 929-4786. E-mail: Young Socialists518@gmail.com **Manhattan:** 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@mac.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: PhilaSWP@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 536-5080. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: seattleswp@speakeasy.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavík. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kb-reykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauck@paradise.net.nz

Christchurch: 287 Selwyn St., Spreydon. Postal address: P.O. Box 7103. Tel: (3) 930-3373. E-mail: clchch@woosh.co.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: Second Floor, 105 Hanover St. Postal code: EH2 1DJ. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@ btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

No to drug testing! Unionize the mines!

The labor movement should oppose a new Kentucky drug-testing law that targets coal miners. Like all other drug-testing legislation and company rules, it is a weapon for the bosses to victimize workers and cover up the main cause of unsafe job conditions: the employers' brutal profit drive.

Since it went into effect July 12, Kentucky's Office of Mine Safety and Licensing has used the new law to suspend the certification of seven coal miners. The legislation requires miners to pass a drug test to be certified, then subjects them to random testing.

The U.S. coal bosses have applauded the new law, which was backed by politicians from the bosses' twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

Mark York, spokesman for the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, said of the law, "The goal is to make mining as safe as possible." Former government mine safety official Tony Oppegard declared that miners "are threatening their livelihood by using drugs." In other words, workers themselves are to blame for unsafe conditions in the mines!

That unsubstantiated allegation is typical of the state and federal mine safety agencies, which have a consistent record of being beholden to the coal companies. It echoes the smear against miners by coal giant Massey Energy, which in a February statement claimed that "the work ethic of the Eastern Kentucky worker has declined from where it once was" as seen in drug use and other problems.

What are the facts? On July 30 Jermey Heckler of West Virginia became the 37th U.S. coal miner killed on the job so far this year. In recent weeks, several Pennsylvania and West Virginia miners have been seriously injured at work. Like the 12 workers killed in January after a methane gas explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, and like the five who died in a May 20 explosion in Harlan County, Kentucky, these workers are casualties of the coal bosses' relentless productivity drive, which puts profits first at the expense of workers' lives and limbs.

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) is backing an August 19 memorial in Harlan, Kentucky, for the miners killed on the job in Harlan County over the past year. Unionists and other workers should support and participate in this event, which will be addressed by UMWA president Cecil Roberts. Relatives and co-workers of deceased miners are seeking to expose the truth about these deadly disasters and are demanding a real solution so miners do not continue to be killed.

In response to these demands, government officials and the big-business media have called for "tougher" mine safety laws. But new legislation will have no meaning *unless* workers organize UMWA locals at every mine. That is the only effective means to enforce safety and ensure that not a single miner dies on the job.

The starting point must be a movement of working people to organize the mines and to put into the hands of the miners themselves all decisions regarding job safety.

Swedish arms supplier ends trade with Venezuela

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Sweden's largest weapons manufacturer, the Saab corporation, will no longer trade with Venezuela due to the terms of a U.S. arms embargo placed on Caracas this May, BBC reported August 3.

Saab's defense subsidiary Bofors has had military contracts with the Venezuelan government for 20 years. According to the United Press International, the company currently has contracts with Caracas for anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons.

Over the past year Spanish and Brazilian arms exporters have also cancelled contracts with Venezuela after Washington denied them licenses to sell technology that included U.S.-made components.

In May, Washington slapped a formal arms sales ban on Venezuela, placing the South American nation on its list of states that are "not fully cooperating" with its "war on terrorism." This list also includes Cuba, Syria, north Korea, and Iran.

The U.S. government, working with sections of Venezuela's capitalist class, has sought unsuccessfully to overthrow the government headed by President Hugo Chávez, who is popular because of measures that have given more space to workers and farmers to fight for land, jobs, and democratic rights. In April of 2002, Washington backed a coup that briefly toppled the Chávez administration. That coup was defeated within 48 hours as hundreds and thousand of working people protested in Caracas and other cities, forcing a division in the Venezuelan military. Two subsequent U.S.-backed attempts to topple Venezuela's government—a bosses' lockout centered in the oil industry and a presidential recall referendum—also failed for similar reasons.

Meanwhile, Washington has continued to pour military aid into neighboring Colombia, which shares a long border with Venezuela. Some $4 billion in weapons and other assistance has been delivered to Bogotá since 2000.

The Venezuelan government has worked to replace arms contracts for its national defense through suppliers whose equipment does not rely on U.S. components. In July, Caracas signed a deal with Moscow to purchase 24 Russian-made Su-30 fighter jets and 53 attack helicopters. "We are breaking the U.S. blockade that was aimed at disarming Venezuela," Chávez told the media after sealing the deal with the Russian government.

Washington has also stepped up its pressure on countries that trade arms with Iran. On August 4, U.S. officials announced seven companies in Russia, Cuba, north Korea, and India would face sanctions for trading with Tehran in equipment that could allegedly be used in "weapons of mass destruction."

LETTERS

Iraq war

A couple of U.S. solders reportedly raped and killed a 14-year-old girl in Iraq named Abeer Qasim Hamza al-Janabi. They also murdered her parents and five-year-old sister Hadeel. After they had burned the bodies they went back to their normal duties for the occupation. This is probably just the tip of an iceberg. The whole invasion is a murderous imperialist rape of Iraq.

Per Leander
Stockholm, Sweden

Clifton DeBerry

Seemingly little things often tell workers just as much about a party's perspective as its program does. I was reminded of this while reading the article on the May 6 San Francisco meeting to celebrate the life and work of veteran Socialist Workers Party leader Clifton DeBerry (May 22 issue).

DeBerry joined the SWP after a series of discussions with party leader Farrell Dobbs. I remember DeBerry describing—at a public meeting in New York in 1983 that I attended—his very first encounter with the party, when he walked into its Chicago headquarters in the early 1950s. DeBerry said he came in and found a man sweeping the floor. They began to talk politics. It was only later that he learned that the floor sweeper was Dobbs—the well-known and respected workers' leader who had earned his spurs in the heat of the 1930s class battles to unionize Minneapolis and then the Midwest, and who was the SWP's presidential candidate in the 1948 election.

DeBerry said this made a lasting impression on him because it showed that Dobbs "wasn't too good to sweep the floor."

Doug Cooper
Sydney, Australia

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Protesters demand justice for Quincy 4

Youth of Asian descent were beaten by Boston-area cops

Liz Green

June 24 rally outside City Hall in Quincy, Massachusetts, to demand dropping of all charges against Quincy 4.

BY JOHN HAWKINS

QUINCY, Massachusetts—More than 100 mostly Asian-American protesters turned out July 26 at the district court here to support the Quincy Four. These are Karen Chen, Quan Manh Thin, Tat M. Yuen, and Howard Ng—four youths of Asian descent facing charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Organized by the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA), protesters came from Quincy, Boston, and other surrounding communities and ranged in age from their early teens to those in their 80s.

The charges against the Quincy Four stem from an April 30 encounter with police here who, according to literature published by the CPA, assaulted the young people while they were returning home from a traditional Chinese wedding engagement party.

One cop pepper-sprayed three of the youths directly in the eyes. Three of the police officers roughed up Chen, barely five feet tall, giving her a black eye. One of the four victims, the prospective groom, was knocked unconscious.

In the hearing, presided over by Judge Diane Moriarty, most defense requests for information from the state were granted without contention. But prosecutor Jason Mohan won the judge's agreement to deny a defense attorney request for the height and weight of the officers involved. A motion to dismiss the charges against the four was postponed until September 14.

After the hearing supporters of the Quincy Four rallied briefly outside the courthouse and then marched to City Hall. Leaving a few individuals on the sidewalk with placards, the majority of protesters crowded inside the lobby while a delegation went to deliver petitions to Mayor William Phelan demanding, among other things, the dropping of charges against the four.

About 10 minutes later an aide to the mayor returned and announced that he would meet with the entire group. An exchange ensued in English and Chinese.

Phelan defended his decision to call for an FBI investigation—a decision, protesters pointed out, those involved in the incident were only then learning about.

Several speakers expressed what appeared to be the majority sentiment: uneasiness with one cop agency investigating another. "If you have the authority to invite the FBI to investigate," said one protester in Chinese, "you also have the authority to include the community among the investigators."

"The FBI is going to do it, and that's it," Phelan shot back. "Government is empowered to do investigations of this sort. If they're not part of law enforcement I will not ask them to be part of the investigation."

The meeting ended with the mayor saying there is no systemic problem between city police and the people of Asian descent. "Quincy has undergone some big changes and the community has been made inviting," Phelan said.

"It is really important that the police are accountable to the community," CPA organizer Amee Chew told the *Militant*. "There's a growing Asian population in Quincy but they have no representation in government. There have been attacks on immigrants all over the country; this is part of that. It happened on the eve of May 1. It's just one more example of how police in our communities are out of control and shows why they need to be under a civilian review board."